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DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

July 15, 2009

AT

GREAT HALL
5 SPRINGDALE AVENUE
DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

7:00 PM

FOR THE PROPOSED

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
WILLOW STREET OVER CHARLES RIVER
Project File No. 603713
Bridge No. D-10-004=N-04-007

IN THE TOWNS OF DOVER/NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER

FRANK A. TRAMONTOZZI, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Project Number 603713

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassHighway to discuss the proposed Willow Street Bridge Replacement Project over the Charles River in the Towns of Dover/Needham.

WHERE: Great Hall
Dover Town Hall
5 Springdale Avenue
Dover, MA 02030

WHEN: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments made at this hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The work under this project consists of the replacement of Bridge No. D-10-004=N-04-007, which carries Willow Street over the Charles River. The work will include complete replacement of the bridge structure and wingwalls. The proposed structure will be a precast concrete arch designed to closely match the geometry of the existing arch. The existing stone façade on the bridge will be removed and reused in a nearly identical fashion on the proposed structure. The intent is to replace the structure and have it aesthetically match the existing structure. The bridge will be closed during construction.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in private or public lands. MassHighway's policy concerning land acquisitions will be discussed at the hearing.

Written views received by MassHighway subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout is available on the MassHighway website listed below.

Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the public hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E., Chief Engineer, Massachusetts Highway Department, Ten Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. The final date for receipt of these statements and exhibits for inclusion in the public hearing transcript will be ten (10) days after the Public Hearing.

The community has declared that this facility is accessible to all in compliance with the ADA/Title II. However, persons in need of ADA/Title II accommodations should contact Angela Rudikoff by phone VOICE (617) 973-7024, TDDY (617) 973-7306 or e-mail angela.rudikoff@eot.state.ma.us. Requests must be made at least 10 days prior to the date of the public hearing.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHighway website <http://www.mass.gov/mhd>.

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER

FRANK A. TRAMONTOZZI, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
Boston, Massachusetts



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
MASSACHUSETTS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

EOT

JAMES A. ALOISI JR.
SECRETARY

LUISA PAIEWONSKY
COMMISSIONER

Dear Concerned Citizen:

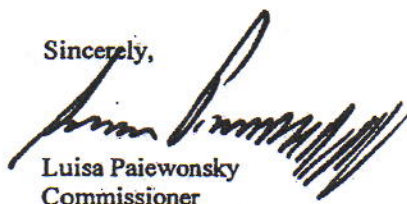
The Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) is committed to building and maintaining a transportation infrastructure that is both safe and efficient for all who use our roadways, bridges, bicycle facilities and pedestrian paths, while maintaining the integrity of the environment.

As part of the design process for this project, we are conducting this public hearing to explain the proposed improvements, listen to your comments and answer any questions you may have. At the conclusion of the hearing, MassHighway will review all of your comments and, where feasible, incorporate them into the design of the project.

Unfortunately, new construction often creates inconveniences for the public. MassHighway places a great deal of emphasis on minimizing the temporary disruptive effects of construction.

MassHighway encourages input from local communities and values your opinions. Please be assured that we will undertake no project without addressing the concerns of the community.

Sincerely,



Luisa Paiewonsky
Commissioner

TEN PARK PLAZA, BOSTON, MA 02116-3969
TELEPHONE: (617) 973-7800 • TELEFAX: (617) 973-8040 • TDD: (617) 973-7306 • WWW.MHD.STATE.MA.US

WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEARING?

WHY A PUBLIC HEARING?

To provide an assured method whereby the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can furnish to the public information concerning the State's highway construction proposals, and to afford every interested resident of the area an opportunity to be heard on any proposed project. At the same time, the hearings afford the Commonwealth an additional opportunity to receive information from local sources which would be of value to the State in making its final decisions to what design should be advanced for development.

WHY NOT A VOTE ON HIGHWAY PLANS?

The hearings are not intended to be a popular referendum for the purpose of determining the nature of a proposed improvement by a majority of those present. They do not relieve the duly constituted officials of a State highway department of the necessity for making decisions in State highway matters for which they are charged with full responsibility.

WHAT DOES A PUBLIC HEARING ACCOMPLISH?

It is designed to ensure the opportunity for, or the availability of, a forum to provide factual information which is pertinent to the determination of the final alternative considered by the state to best serve the public interest, and on which improvement projects are proposed to be undertaken.

It is important that the people of the area express their views in regard to the proposal being presented, so that views can be properly recorded in the minutes of the meeting. These minutes will be carefully studied and taken into consideration in the determination of the final design.

TO SAFEGUARD THE PROPERTY OWNER

If your property, or a portion of it, must be taken by the State for a highway in the interest of all people of the Commonwealth, your rights are fully protected under the law. Briefly, here are some of the answers to questions you might ask.

1. WHO CONTACTS ME?

Representatives of the Right of Way Bureau of the Massachusetts Highway Department. They will explain the procedure to be followed in acquiring and paying for the property. An appraiser may ask questions needed to arrive at a fair price for your property.

2. WHAT IS A FAIR PRICE FOR MY PROPERTY?

Every offer is made to insure that an equitable value is awarded to you for the property, or to appraise the "damage" to the property as a result of the taking. MHD appraisers, independent appraisers, MHD "Review Appraisers" and a Real Estate Review Board may all contribute in arriving at a fair price. The State also pays a proportionate part of the real estate tax for the current year, and interest from the date the property is acquired.

3. MUST I ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFER?

No. If, after the figure established as a fair market value has been offered to the owner, the owner feels he or she is not being offered a fair price, he or she has the right within two years to appeal to the courts. PENDING a court decision, he or she can be paid a "protanto" (or "for the time being") amount that in no way prejudices the court appeal.

4. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY HOUSE?

The owner will have the opportunity to buy back his or her house, provided he or she has a location to which it can be moved; and the proper permits for its removal. If the owner does not wish to repurchase, the house will be advertised for bids. The highest bidder, who must also have a location and permits for removal, will be awarded the house.

5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MUST RELOCATE?

In addition to the fair market value of the property, the Department pays certain relocation benefits for both owners and tenants of acquired residences and businesses who meet eligibility requirements. Assistance in relocation is also provided. Department brochures are available for details on these benefits.

PROPOSED BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

This project consists of the replacement of the existing concrete arch, wingwalls, and associated approach roadway. The existing roadway is approximately 29' wide with two lanes of traffic. The existing structure is a reinforced concrete arch with a 55' span and a 9' rise. The structure was constructed in 1930 and has a stone façade. The stone façade contains stones from the previous structure and the overall façade is considered historic. The project requires the stones be re-used such that look of the new structure matches the look of the existing structure. The existing arch is rigidly connected to the concrete foundations which consist of 11' high 'thrust blocks'.

There is a dam located a few hundred feet downstream of the bridge. The dam maintains a constant water surface elevation through the dam. The normal water elevation at the bridge is approximately 101, or about the elevation of the arch spring line. The water depths, maintained by the downstream dam, vary upwards of 9' to 11' deep beneath the bridge.

The north abutment is founded on bedrock. The bedrock drops off across the river and is approximately 20' below the stream bed at the south abutment. The bearing material at the south abutment is adequate to support bridge structure; however, scour at this location needs to be addressed by either a deep foundation or permanent sheet piling in front of the abutment to act as scour protection.

The replacement structure was initially scheduled to be a reinforced cast-in-place concrete arch and wingwalls to match the geometry of the existing structure. The intent is to have the look of the completed structure 'exactly' match the existing structure. The replacement alternative has since been changed to provide a precast concrete arch and either precast or cast-in-place wingwalls. The precast structure will closely match the geometry of the existing structure for the portion of the structure visible above the waterline. The proposed precast structure is a BEBO brand E66T with a span of 66'. The proposed arrangement will differ from the existing structure below the waterline, but the appearance above the waterline is virtually identical. The precast structure will have a much faster construction time, resulting in less inconvenience to the public. It will also greatly reduce the amount of work suspended over water and will be less expensive as compared to a cast-in-place alternative.

The bridge will be closed during construction so phasing will not be required. It is anticipated the water diversion on the south side of the bridge will be accomplished with sheet piling driven around the abutment and wingwalls. This sheeting may also be designed to be left in place and act as permanent scour protection. At the north abutment, the shallow bedrock and the depth of water will make the water diversion challenging. It is anticipated at this point that the water diversion will need to be accomplished with a combination of sheetpiling and sandbags.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Construction Cost: The estimated construction cost is \$4,000,000.

Construction Duration: Utilizing the precast option, the construction duration is expected to be about 8 months.

Project Funding and Programming: This project is part of the Mass Highway Department's Accelerated Bridge Program. It will be constructed using state funds.

Traffic Management Plan: The bridge will be closed during construction. The detour will be about 3 miles and utilize Fisher Street, Central/Center Street and Cross Street.

Environmental Permits: Section 401 and 404 permits will be required for this project.

R.O.W. Impacts: As of the 25% design, it is expected that two permanent easements, one drainage easement and 3 temporary construction easements will be required for this project.

Name _____ Title _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____

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Frank A. Tramontozzi, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Massachusetts Highway Department
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116-3973

RE: Public Hearing

**BRIDGE REPLACEMENT - WILLOW STREET OVER CHARLES RIVER
DOVER/NEEDHAM
Project File No. 603713**